

# SIKKIM



**GOVERNMENT**

**GAZETTE**

**EXTRAORDINARY  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

**Gangtok**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2022**

**No. 316**

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
GANGTOK**

**No. 14/H&FW**

**Dated: 6.8.2022**

## **NOTIFICATION**

Whereas, considering the declining Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of the State of Sikkim, the State Government has deemed it expedient and necessary to grant financial assistance to the childless couples of Sikkim who wish to undergo In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment at empaneled hospitals, on referral by the State Medical Board;

And whereas, in view of above, the State Government has decided to introduce the "Vatsalya Scheme" in the State.

Now therefore, the State Government is hereby pleased to make the following rules for regulating the grant of financial assistance to the childless couples of Sikkim who wish to undergo In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment, namely:-

**Short title, extent and commencement** 1. (1) These rules may be called the **Chief Minister's Vatsalya Scheme Rules, 2022**.

(2) They shall extend to the whole of Sikkim.

(3) They shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

**Definitions** 2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Department" means the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim;

(b) "Government" means the Government of Sikkim;

(c) "IVF" means In Vitro Fertilization;

**Eligibility** 3. The following category of persons shall be eligible for the financial assistance under the Scheme, namely:

- (a) all regular Government employees. If both the husband and wife are Government employees, then only one of them shall be eligible under this Scheme;
- (b) all general public of Sikkim holding valid Sikkim Subject Certificate (SSC) or Certificate of Identification (COI);
- (c) all temporary employees of the State Government appointed on adhoc, contract and work charge basis;
- (d) regular Government employees under probation who are not eligible for medical reimbursement under the Sikkim Services (Medical Facilities) Rules, 1981:

Provided, in all the above categories, only those applicants who do not have any living issues are eligible for financial assistance under this Scheme.

Provided further, only those applicants who have been referred by the State Medical Board for IVF treatment at empanelled hospitals shall be eligible under this Scheme.

**Limit of Financial Assistance**

- 4. (1) The maximum financial assistance under this Scheme shall be limited to Rs.3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lakhs only) per couple at the rate of Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) for the first attempt of IVF treatment and Rs.1,50,000 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) for the second attempt of IVF treatment.
- (2) The financial assistance is restricted to the Cost of treatment only and no other expenditure shall be entertained. Any cost incurred over and above the maximum financial assistance shall be borne by the beneficiaries from their own sources.

**Referral Process**

- 5. The State Medical Board before referring the applicants for IVF treatment shall
  - (a) examine each and every case in detail to confirm whether it's a fit case for IVF treatment;
  - (b) get itself satisfied that the applicant under this Scheme has undergone all relevant diagnostics for identifying the cause of infertility ;
  - (c) see that the applicant has attempted all infertility treatments other than IVF and that the only option left for them is to go for IVF treatment.

**Mode of payment**

- 6. (1) Those category of persons falling under rules 3(a) shall be claiming the reimbursement under the Sikkim Services (Medical Facilities) Rules, 1981. The financial limits of IVF treatment under the said rule shall be in consonance with the maximum financial limits fixed under this Scheme.

- (2) Those category of persons falling under rule 3(b), (c) and (d) shall claim the reimbursement under this Scheme from the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell.
- (3) All the reimbursement shall be subject to submission of original voucher or bills, Discharge Summary and other relevant papers.

**Constitution of  
Committee**

- 7. The State Government shall by notification, constitute a Committee for empanelment of hospitals under this Scheme and to oversee the implementation of the Scheme.

**Empanelment of  
Hospitals**

- 8. (1) Beneficiaries under this Scheme shall be referred only to empanelled hospitals. The Committee under rule 7 shall empanel the Hospital under this Scheme by inviting expression of interest from registered and reputed hospitals specialized in infertility treatment.
- (2) The parameters for the selection of the hospitals shall be based on the availability of infrastructure, availability of qualified medical profession, cost of treatment, expertise, success rate, special facilities and any other parameters which the committee deems necessary for empanelment.

**Power to amend**

- 9. The State Government may review and amend the rules as and when deemed necessary.

**By order and in the name of the Governor.**

**D ANANDAN, IAS  
COMMISSIONER-CUM-SECRETARY  
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

